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ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION.

BOSTON, AUG.—SEPT., 1890.

R. B. HOWARD, EDITOR.

—We are indebted to the London *Herald of Peace*, *The Daily News* and many kind friends for essential aid in making out our extended reports of the London meetings. To all such we extend our sincere thanks. We trust that the great length will not discourage perusal. A full report of the resolutions, addresses and acts of the Congress is in course of preparation and can be had by such as apply early to this office.

—The speedy settlement of the troubles in Central America and the proclamation of peace gives joy to the whole civilized world. No doubt the weight of all American Governments thrown into the scale against the war hastened its end.

—The Annual Peace mass meeting at Mystic, Ct., August 27–29, drew the usual immense crowd. On Thursday some seven thousand people were present. Money was raised to pay for the grove and it was voted to petition the Connecticut Legislature to make an appropriation to erect a Peace Temple. The meeting is a joint one of the Connecticut Peace Society and the Universal Peace Union of which Alfred H. Love is President. We regret our inability to accept a kind invitation from Secretary Fred. E. Whipple to be present at this the largest gathering in the interests of Peace in the world.

“SICKLY SENTIMENTALISM.”

“What we need more than anything else is military strength. I have no sympathy with the sickly sentimentalism which declares there are to be no more wars. The mission of the sword is ended. All difficulties between nations must be settled by arbitration. This talk has no vitality or sense in it. Until Christ comes there will be war. I believe in the sermon on the mount. Yet the time has not come for turning the swords and spears into ploughshares and pruning-hooks.

“Every able-bodied man should be called to the State militia. It never ought to be again crippled. The American boys should go through the manual of arms in the public schools, and should be trained for military service.”—Rev. Prof. L. T. Townsend, D. D., at Tremont Temple, August 17, as reported in daily papers and published in *The Woman's Voice and Public School Champion*, Boston.

Isaiah ii. 4, 5: They shall learn war no more. Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Matt. v. 9: Blessed are the peacemakers. 44: I say unto you, love your enemies. Matt. xxvi. 52: They that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Luke xxiii. 34: Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. James iv. 1: Whence come wars and fightings? Even of your lusts. iii. 8: The tongue can no man tame. Proverbs xv. 1: Grievous words stir up anger.

One feels pitiful towards mistakes made in the heated air of revived militarism. We never heard any one say that “all difficulties between nations can be settled by arbitration.” Many have been, many more may be. War like other forms of sin may exist till Christ comes.

If it does it will be in part because professed Gospel preachers insist that it shall continue and urge the people to faith in war rather than in peace. The bloody blunder of the Crusades, the thirty years of religious war in Germany, like the thumb screws of the Inquisition, cannot be repeated. Why repeat Waterloo, Metz and Gettysburg? Can nothing better be done “till Christ comes”?

The Grand Army as it went by, with battle-scarred faces, broken and dismembered limbs, was to us surrounded and followed by millions of invisible soldiers, who from prisons, hospitals and battle-fields passed out of human sight. A procession of the widows and orphans would outnumber the survivors many times.

Is it “sickly sentimentalism,” or is it healthful love that sees in that entire body, living and dead, a most profound and moving argument for fulfilling prophecy, obeying Christ and abolishing war?

John G. Whittier often writes impromptu verses, in albums and elsewhere, bright with a gayety that does not often appear in his more important works. Not long ago he wrote in the album of a young lady—who with her friends had been rallying him on his bachelorhood—the following lines:

Ah, ladies, you love to levy a tax
On my poor little parcel of fame;
Yet strange it seems that among you all
Not one is willing to take my name—
To write and rewrite, till the angels pity her,
The weariful words, Thine truly, WHITTIER.

STARTING RIGHT.

In the Southern Presbyterian Assembly, held at Asheville, a formal approval was adopted of the proposed Peace Congress; a Committee of Correspondence was appointed, and also two delegates to represent the Southern Presbyterian body therein.

This is a right royal step. We have seen a communication from this Committee on Peace addressed to the Congregational Council which meets in 1892. A committee of earnest and sincere men in each of the great denominational bodies to correspond with each other and secure united action—and a delegation to the annual Peace Congress of the world from the same bodies would be an immense advance on the *quasi* approval of silence or the merely formal utterances which some great church meetings have given, to get rid of persistent applicants for action on Peace.

MAINE.

Rev. R. B. Howard of Boston delivered an able address before the State Congregational Conference at Bridgeton (Maine) on “The American Peace Society and International Christian Politics.” He is the Secretary of that Society and gives his whole time to its interests. At the close of his address Hon. J. B. Foster of Bangor offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this conference has listened with interest and sympathy to the address of Rev. R. B. Howard, Secretary of the American Peace Society, and would hereby express its hearty approval of the work of that Society in this country and Europe, to secure the substitution of international arbitration for international war.—*Christian Mirror*.